

file with 1962 Price List

SB115

Z9B775

R

Fr



LIBRARY
RECEIVED

★ FEB 4 1962 ★

U. S. Department of Agriculture

HOW TO GROW

Cultivated Blueberries

BRINTON FRUIT FARM

HANOVER, R. D. 5, PENNSYLVANIA

Visit Our Blueberry Nursery Located on Route 194

BRINTON BLUEBERRIES

... are unusual in their dependability, permanence and abundant production. They are **SUPERSIZE CULTIVATED BLUEBERRIES**, big as grapes, measuring from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch across, practically seedless, plump, firm and not perishable. Blueberries are very profitable, bringing from 40 cents to 70 cents a quart. Present production cannot supply the demand. The flavor is similar to the wild huckleberry and the berries are delicious as fresh fruit and baked in muffins and pie. They are excellent for commercial shipping and can be preserved by canning or freezing.

The magnificent bush of the **CULTIVATED BLUEBERRY**, entirely without thorns, is of great beauty the year round. In Spring, the pink buds open into wax-white flower bells. Later, against rich green summer foliage, huge clusters of frosty blue berries hang majestically. In autumn, the leaves and twigs are a gorgeous crimson.

In the family garden, 12 plants supply an abundance of berries. A bush produces a few berries the year transplanted. Commercial production starts the third year. Full bearing age is reached in 6 to 8 years when plants yield up to 3000 quarts per acre. Cultivated Blueberry plants are productive from 50 to 75 years.

VARIETIES -

Two varieties are needed to insure cross pollination. Our classification chart (see back of price list) gives the varieties according to their characteristics of size of berry, time of ripening and dessert quality.

Select plants listed as Early, Mid-season and Late to provide a picking season of 7 weeks. Berries are picked at 5 to 7 day intervals. Each bush has 3 to 4 pickings. In southern Pennsylvania, berries ripen the end of June and picking continues into August. When fully ripe and ready to pick, Blueberries are **COMPLETELY BLUE** at the stem end. Unripe berries will not have the sweet, true blueberry flavor.

PLANTING -

Cultivated Blueberries are grown commercially in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, Michigan and Massachusetts. The plants are hardy to winters in these areas.

When the plants arrive, **SOAK THE ROOTS IN WATER** and set out immediately. (If planting must be delayed, cover roots with wet bags or peat moss.) Set out plants early in April (or after October 15), 4 feet apart and 10 feet between rows. Put in ground a little deeper than they were in the nursery. Work peat moss in around the roots to increase the humus of the soil but **DO NOT PUT FERTILIZER OR MANURE IN THE HOLE.**

ACID SOIL IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL (4.5 to 5.5 PH). Soil can be made suitable by mulching with sawdust. Small amounts of finely ground sulphur (1 to 2 lbs. per 100 square feet) or ammonium sulphate, ($\frac{1}{4}$ lb. per bush) will also increase the acidity.

Good drainage is necessary. Blueberries prefer water 15 to 18 inches below the soil surface. They thrive best in sunny locations but will grow in partially shaded places.

CULTIVATION -

The prime factor in growing Cultivated Blueberries is to **PROVIDE A UNIFORM SUPPLY OF MOISTURE** in the summer season because blueberries have fine, shallow roots. A heavy sawdust mulch will accomplish this. (In commercial plantings, controlled irrigation may be substituted.) Spread the sawdust around the plants, 4 inches deep on top of the ground, to form a band 2 feet wide the entire length of the row. Each year put additional sawdust on top of the old sawdust in the same manner. **DO NOT DISTURB** the previous layers of mulch.

To control the weeds and aerate the soil, use shallow cultivation between rows when necessary until harvest. When picking season is over, clean cultivate again. Some hoeing is required to control weeds in the row.

FERTILIZER -

The year plants are transplanted, do not apply any fertilizer. NEVER USE MANURE OR LIME. Thereafter, apply $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. 5-10-5 each spring in a circle around the plant on top of the ground.

In commercial plantings use a special mix of 8-8-8. The potash should come from sulfate of potash rather than from muriate of potash. Nitrogen should come from at least two different sources, such as ammonium sulfate and ammonium nitrate. Apply at the rate of 500 lbs. per acre or $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per bush.

PEST CONTROL -

No spraying is required in small plantings since insects and diseases are not serious. In commercial plantings, 3 or 4 sprayings a season are required to control Botrytis Rot and Maggots. Consult your county agent for latest spraying program.

PRUNING -

Cultivated Blueberries over-produce and must be pruned to secure large berries on vigorous new wood. Regular pruning begins the third year after transplanting and is done annually in the Spring while buds are dormant. REDUCE THE BEARING WOOD BY HALF.

1. Remove small bushy growth and low spreading branches near base of plant.

2. Remove dead and broken branches and thin bushy wood inside of plant to open it up to sun and air.

3. Remove old stems which have lost vigor.

4. Cut back fruit buds to about 4 per branch.

The heavier the pruning, the larger the berries, the higher the percentage of early-maturing berries, and the smaller the crop.

BRINTON FRUIT FARM

James H. Brinton

Grower

HANOVER, R. D. 5, PENNSYLVANIA